

REMARKS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to a telephone interview with the Examiner on May 12, 2004, during which the Examiner and the undersigned discussed claims 3, 15, 50 and 51. The Examiner explained his view of the claim language and invited a proposed amendment to address his concerns.

I. Status of the Claims

In the Official Action dated August 6, 2003, claims 2, 5, 11, 17, 23 and 49 are allowed. Please amend claims 3, 15, 50 and 51 as indicated above. Claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17, 23, 49, 50 and 51 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17, 23, 49, 50 and 51 are independent claims.

The Examiner has not rejected claims 3, 15, 50 and 51, but has indicated that the language of certain parts of the claims would likely result in a rejection, and invited an amendment to possibly avoid such a rejection. Applicant has amended the claim language to more clearly described the claimed invention and overcome the Examiner's concerns, and respectfully asks that the Examiner allow the claims.

II. Request for Allowance

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

PATENT

Docket No.: 36409-00100

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

May 13, 2004
~~April 1, 2004~~

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9